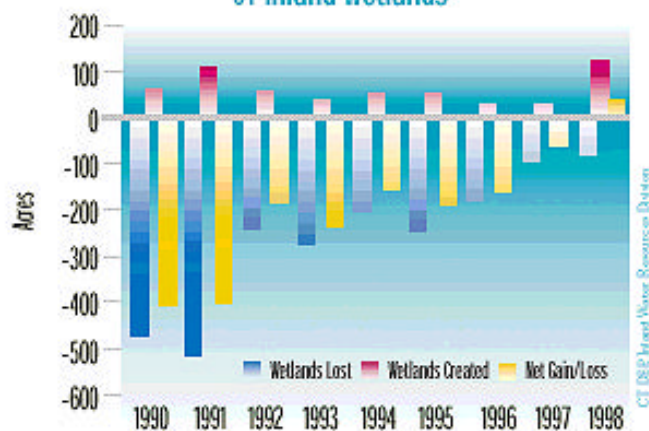


CT Inland Wetlands



Since 1990, wetland alterations and losses have consistently declined and wetland creation has gained. As a result, in 1998, Connecticut had a net gain in inland wetlands. While freshwater wetlands are mapped in New York, no trend analysis has been done to date.

Acres of Inland Wetlands

Like tidal wetlands, inland wetlands serve many valuable functions, including fish and wildlife habitat, flood storage, groundwater recharge, and pollutant removal. Wetlands act as natural sinks for nutrients and other pollutants that otherwise would find their way into the numerous rivers and streams that eventually lead to Long Island Sound. Before their value was realized, wetlands were routinely filled in or drained to accommodate the construction of buildings, parking lots, and roads. Federal and state laws enacted in the early 1970s to protect wetlands began to halt this practice and are beginning to show positive results.



Photo by CT DEP